

REMARKS

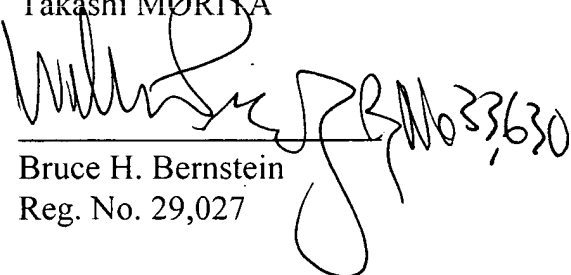
By the present response, claims 1-4 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. The cancellation of claims 1-4 and 6 should not be taken as acquiescence with the propriety of the Election of Species Requirement. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not provided a proper basis to support the Election of Species Requirement. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the previous responses, and consistent with office policy as set forth in MPEP 803, 806 and 809, Applicant respectfully submits that the Election of Species Requirement is inappropriate.

However, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-4 and 6 such that claim 5 can issue, without prejudice to the filing of continuing application(s) drawn to these claims.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

January 29, 2004
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Respectfully submitted,
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